



March 21, 2014

Rural SAG

Austin, TX - To COG and Public Safety Communications Representatives:

This is a "Call for Volunteers" to participate in the Rural SAG (Strategic Advisory Group) for the Texas Public Safety Broadband Network.

By statute, FirstNet is required to provide substantial rural coverage for rural and urban counties. In order to provide FirstNet with the most complete rural coverage requirements, a rural working group (SAG) is being formed. One representative from each COG will have responsibility to voice the coverage needs and concerns of rural counties in his/her COG.

Rural coverage comes with prioritization and that's where membership on the Rural SAG is important. Of the 254 counties in Texas, more than 2/3 of them are rural, so it is key that your rural voice is heard. What is significant in a rural county that might give it priority? Highway miles, coastal miles, border miles, existing infrastructure, population, interest in the project, early build-out, public private partnership, money, or the number of 911 calls? SAG members will identify these coverage-related factors and assign a mathematical assessment on their importance so the factors can be ranked for the eventual FirstNet build-out of the Texas Public Safety Broadband Network across rural counties in Texas.

A monthly conference call will be held most likely through the summer; more information on the actual mechanics of the SAG will be provided on the initial call.

Please submit names of a volunteer for your COG to the Office of the TXSWIC at TXSWIC@dps.texas.gov by Monday, April 7th. It is the intent to have the SAG active by the end of April.

Rita Mooney, Program Coordinator; Michelle Mclean, CAM; Karla Jurrens,

Interoperability Coordinator; and Ashley Kimbell, PM Support, will lead this working group. We look forward to working with you and hearing the rural coverage concerns for Texas COGs for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network build-out.